

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-11 CU-02 SSO-00 /035 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 724

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FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL GH

SUBJ: MARVIN GAY PERFORMANCES IN GHANA: DEPARTMENT DECISION

REFS: A. 75 ACCRA 8529, B. STATE 002647, C. ACCRA 0117,

D. STATE 004299

1. I AM INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT DEPARTMENT'S LACK OF POSITIVE ACTION SUPPORTING PAN AM OFFER TO TRANSPORT MARVIN GAYE GROUP HERE. URGENTLY REQUEST YOUR PERSONAL INTERCESSION TO BREAK APPARENT BUREAUCRATIC BOTTLENECK.

2. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING LONG AND HARD TO ALLOW GAYE AND GROUP TO PERFORM IN GHANA DURING TRADE FAIR. GAYE HAS AGREED, U.S. FIRMS HAVE DONATED SUBSISTENCE, PAN AM READY AND WILLING TO DONATE TRANSPORTATION, I UNDERSTAND CAB READY TO GRANT NECESSARY WAIVER TO ALLOW PAN AM TO DO SO, AND I BELIEVE AF, CU, AND IO HAVE ALL SUPPORTED MY STRONG RECOMMENDATION (REFTELS A AND B) THAT APPROVAL BE GRANTED. STILL NOTHING IS FORTHCOMING, AND TRADE FAIR OPENING IS IMMINENT.

3. THIS IS A PARTICULARLY CRITICAL TIME DURING WHICH IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE POSITIVE AMERICAN EXPOSURE IN GHANA, WHICH I AM CONVINCED GAYE WILL GIVE US. WE HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN HEAVY LUMPS IN THEPRESS AND WITH SOME STUDENT GROUPS OVER ANGOLA. TRADE FAIR PERIOD (BEGINNING FEB. 1) WILLGIVE US MAXIMUM EXPOSURE. FURTHER, OUR PROVISION OF GAYE TO FAIR ON "USA DAY" (FEB. 2) WILL BE

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INDICATION TO GOG OF OUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT, SINCE TRADE FAIR

OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO GOG.

4. IN SUM, GAYE GROUP'S PERFORMANCES HERE IN PARAMOUNT US NATIONAL
INTEREST. ONLY BLOCK SEEMS TO BE LACK OF DECISION AT STATE
TO ALLOW PAN AM TO PROVIDE FREE TRANSPORT. REQUEST YOU HELP
US TO RESOLVE AND NOTIFY US URGENTLY. MANY THANKS.
BLACK

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